

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

2019-02-20

2. Department

Department of Water Resources

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Division of Multibenefit Initiatives

4. CEA Position Title

Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

The Department of Water Resources proposes to revise Chief, Bay-Delta Office to Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives. The Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives will be responsible for the development and implementation of a near- and long-term vision and strategies for the effective and efficient integration of Delta and Central Valley flood risk reduction and habitat restoration.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Deputy Director, Integrated Watershed Management/CEA B

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain): The Deputy Director, IWM is a member of the Executive Management Team whereas this position works directly with the Deputy Director and Directorate.

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

The Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives will report to the Deputy Director, Integrated Watershed Management Program and will be responsible for the development and implementation of a near- and long-term vision and strategies for the effective and efficient integration of Delta and Central Valley flood risk reduction and habitat restoration. Specifically, the new CEA will be responsible for leading, planning, organizing, and providing policy direction and high-level oversight for the following activities and programs that are organized under three distinct branches.

1) EcoRestore Program - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) EcoRestore program helps coordinate and implement Delta-region restoration activities across multiple DWR divisions, with a particular near-term focus on achieving at least 30,000 acres of critical habitat by 2020.

2) Delta Levees and Associated Habitat Improvement Programs - This work includes the successful implementation of Delta flood risk reduction financial assistance programs, associated restoration actions, and long-term management of strategic state-owned Delta restoration properties. (This includes Delta "subventions" and "special projects" programs and their associated habitat mitigation and habitat enhancement activities.)

3) Systemwide Multibenefit Initiatives - This program implements large-scale and complex flood risk reduction and habitat enhancement projects across the Central Valley and Delta, develops updates to the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), and implements innovative approaches to restoration consistent with the CVFPP Conservation Strategy objectives.

The Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives, will work closely with the Deputy Director, Integrated Watershed Management Program and other Statewide Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) Division Chiefs, as well as coordinate with DWR Deputy Directors and Executive management to deliver innovative, relevant, timely, and cost-effective projects, plans, and strategies for future associated activities. In addition, the CEA will represent DWR on statewide water management policy matters with federal, state, and local government, the water industry, and other stakeholders and recommend courses of action to DWR Executive management.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The Department's mission is "to sustainably manage the water resources of California, in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people and protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments."

The mission of the IWM program is to conduct and support water and flood management planning studies that help protect and improve California's water resources; and to develop and adapt California's water and flood management systems, based on the principles and practices of integrated water management. These goals are central to DWR.

IWM is responding to current needs through a new statewide initiative for the Department. The initiative seeks to efficiently and effectively use public funds to strategically plan and implement projects that maximize value for Californians and the state's ecosystems, while recognizing the interconnectedness of water resources management at the watershed and eco-region scales and respecting each region's unique governance, perspectives, needs, and priorities.

The new Division of Multibenefit Initiatives is a part of this initiative and will carry out numerous DWR priorities, such as the implementation of multibenefit projects, conservation and restoration of ecosystems within a watershed, and support for the Delta.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

A new bond (Proposition 68) allocated \$300 million to multibenefit projects that included both flood protection and environmental enhancement. In addition, Proposition 1 included multibenefit requirements related to DWR funds. A focus on multibenefit projects is needed in light of these new policy and funding priorities. Given these factors, the Department proposes a new CEA as the Multibenefit Division Chief to lead the new Multibenefit Division and address these challenges.

Creating the new Multibenefit Division is a key piece for implementing the new initiative described previously. This position will lead this new division that will focus on multibenefit and environmental projects. Some key issues facing DWR are subsequently detailed. IWM is responding to these events by focusing on the alignment of priority program areas, watershed scale collaborations, and multibenefit projects.

1. Extreme Climate Variation - There were record setting precipitation and high-water events in the Central Valley in January and February 2017 after years of drought. In the Anderson Reservoir/Coyote Creek area, flooding that occurred in February 2017 brought monthly precipitation to nearly 300% of average, and Anderson Lake in Santa Clara County exceeded 100% of reservoir capacity and had uncontrolled flows over the spillway into Coyote Creek. Several hundred-people needed to be rescued as flood waters continued to rise. Over 500 homes and 100 structures experienced damage from the flood. Climate change is causing increased uncertainties related to snowpack, sea level, and river flows.

2. Increased Natural Disasters in the State and the Country - In 2017, there were Flood After Fire events in Santa Barbara County. The Thomas Fire scarred areas of Santa Barbara County, resulting in mud and debris flows in 2018 during significant precipitation events. For the first time in over 100 years, three (3) category five (5) hurricanes made landfall in the United States causing over \$250 billion in damages. The damages in Harris County, Texas were a wakeup call across the United States, as many of the properties destroyed by the record setting precipitation were previously not mapped within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplains, thus illustrating the importance of land use planning and floodplain mapping in managing future risks due to extreme precipitation events. Furthermore, the record setting precipitation caused releases from two United States Army Corps of Engineers managed reservoirs to result in additional flooding in urban areas around Houston, Texas.

3. Environmental and Other Drivers -

- Invasive species: Invasive species such as Nutria, Alligatorweed, New Zealand Mudsnaill, and Quagga Mussels impact flood conveyance, damage levees, disrupt ecosystem function, and increase the cost of facilities maintenance.
- Species decline: California has lost more than 90 percent of the wetlands and riparian forests that existed before the Gold Rush. Salmon, delta smelt, and other species are at their lowest levels since records were first kept about 50 years ago. This decline has led to court restrictions and new regulations.
- Land subsidence: Land subsidence can significantly damage infrastructure, including water supply conveyance facilities, levees, and flood channels by reducing their water storage and carrying capacities.
- Development and population growth: As the state's population grows there is increased pressure on limited resources.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

This position will be the principal policy maker over the following program areas:

Systemwide Multibenefit Projects and Initiatives - This program implements large-scale and complex flood risk reduction and habitat enhancement projects across the Central Valley and Delta, develops updates to the 2012 CVFPP, and implements innovative approaches to restoration consistent with the CVFPP Conservation Strategy objectives. Proposition 68 and Proposition 1 allocate a total of approximately \$500 million to multibenefit projects that include both public safety and environmental enhancement elements. DWR is responsible for the planning, design, and construction of these projects to meet ecological and human needs, while anticipating future challenges. Given that these projects usually include construction components, not only are high dollar amounts spent, but these projects generate significant interest from many different stakeholder groups and DWR must work in partnership with them to complete these projects. Some examples of stakeholders include Reclamation Districts or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Priority Environmental Efforts (including EcoRestore) - The DWR EcoRestore program helps coordinate and implement Delta-region restoration activities across multiple DWR divisions, with a particular near-term focus on achieving at least 30,000 acres of critical habitat by the year 2020. In addition, DWR is responsible for mitigating wetland impacts related to the State Water Project (SWP) and overseeing fish passage projects that reduce barriers to migration of anadromous fishes that depend on habitat in the Central Valley. Eco-restore is a California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Governor's Office initiative.

Delta Environmental Services Programs - The Delta environmental services programs are designed to develop, enhance, and maintain ecologically effective habitats that benefit the overall ecological health of the Delta region and its native species. These include Delta levees and associated habitat improvement programs, such as Delta "subventions" and "special projects" programs and their associated habitat mitigation and habitat enhancement activities. This work includes the successful implementation of Delta flood risk reduction financial assistance programs, associated restoration actions, and long-term management of strategic state-owned Delta restoration properties.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

As a Division Chief, this position will have broad decision-making authority and lead, plan, organize, provide policy direction, and high-level oversight of multiple DWR multibenefit and environmental programs and efforts. The position will oversee 60+ employees and a budget of approximately \$1 billion. The Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives will have the authority to represent the Department in matters relating to multibenefit initiatives and programs and act in place of the Deputy Director, Integrated Watershed Management Program. As a key senior manager and policy maker, the Division Chief will make decisions regarding projects and resources and will communicate Department priorities and goals regarding multibenefit initiatives to staff and external stakeholders.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

The Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives would both develop and implement new policy and interpret and implement existing policy. The Division Chief will accomplish this by leading, collaborating, creating, and implementing a vision for environmental and multibenefit projects that focuses on what, how, and when the projects should be accomplished. Further, in order for the new Chief, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives to be successful, they will have to collaborate with key members of state, federal, and local entities, various stakeholders, and DWR management on a variety of multibenefit policy issues.